



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

October 24, 2014

Ms. Amy Burt, Environmental Planner
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
Silverdale, Washington 98315-1101

RE: EPA Comments on the DOD Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS/OEIS) for the Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities,
EPA# 08-028-DOD

Dear Ms. Burt:

We have reviewed the above-referenced document in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309 specifically directs the EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions.

The Navy has conducted this DSEIS/OEIS primarily to re-analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed training activities on marine mammals. The analysis considers new scientific information and the recently developed Navy Acoustics Effect Model NAEMO. The re-analysis is in large part to support the reissuance of current Letters of Authorization, which are due to expire in 2016.

The DSEIS/OEIS identifies the same or very similar impacts to marine mammals as the previous DSEIS/OEIS and also identifies the same preferred alternative (Alternative B). As such, we are giving the document the same impact rating of "EC" (Environmental Concern) because of our previously identified concerns, but an adequacy rating of "1" (Adequate) since the EIS improves the analysis of impacts to marine mammals. We have no additional recommendations for your consideration at this time. A copy of our rating system criteria used in conducting our environmental review is enclosed. Our rating and a copy of our comments will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide written comments on the Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities DSEIS/SOEIS. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff at (907) 271-6324 or curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

Enclosure